

In The Claims:

The following list of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims:

List of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An immunogenic composition, comprising:

a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient; and

an attenuated form of live bacteria with a DNA adenine methylase (Dam) activity altered relative to the Dam activity of the wild-type, unaltered, pathogenic form of the live bacteria, with the alteration being in a manner which renders the live bacteria attenuated, wherein the Dam activity is altered by a mutation in the Dam gene such that virulence of the attenuated bacteria is reduced to an acceptable safety level; and

a first heterologous nucleotide sequence operatively inserted in the live attenuated bacteria which first heterologous sequence expresses a heterologous antigen.

Claim 2 (Original): The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the Dam activity is altered by a second heterologous nucleotide sequence.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): An immunogenic composition, comprising:

a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient; and

an attenuated form of live bacteria with a DNA adenine methylase (Dam) activity altered relative to the Dam activity of the wild-type, unaltered, pathogenic form of the live bacteria, with the alteration being in a manner which renders the live bacteria attenuated such that virulence of the attenuated bacteria is reduced to an acceptable safety level;

a first heterologous nucleotide sequence operatively inserted in the live attenuated bacteria which first heterologous sequence expresses a heterologous antigen; and

a second heterologous nucleotide sequence wherein the Dam activity is altered by the second heterologous nucleotide sequence.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The immunogenic composition of claim 3, wherein the first heterologous sequence is operatively inserted into a first plasmid and further wherein the second heterologous sequence is operatively inserted into a second plasmid.

Claims 5-6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the live attenuated bacteria is altered relative to its wild-type form by a genetically engineered change in its DNA which change is a non-lethal, non-reverting mutation which renders the bacteria attenuated.

Claim 8 (Original): The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the heterologous antigen is an antigen of a pathogenic virus.

Claim 9 (Original): The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the heterologous antigen is an antigen of a pathogenic bacteria.

Claims 10-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Original): The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the heterologous antigen is an antigen of a microorganism which causes an enteric infection.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): An ~~The~~ immunogenic composition ~~of claim 12,~~
~~wherein the microorganism is, comprising:~~

a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient; and

an attenuated form of live bacteria with a DNA adenine methylase (Dam) activity altered relative to the Dam activity of the wild-type, unaltered, pathogenic form of the live bacteria, with the alteration being in a manner which renders the live bacteria attenuated, wherein the Dam activity is altered by a mutation in the Dam gene; and

a first heterologous nucleotide sequence operatively inserted in the live attenuated bacteria which first heterologous sequence expresses a heterologous antigen, wherein the heterologous antigen is selected from the group consisting of: an antigen of *Vibrio cholera*, an antigen of a microorganism which causes a respiratory infection, an antigen of a microorganism which causes a sexually transmitted disease, and hepatitis B surface antigen.

Claims 14 - 19 (Cancelled)

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The immunogenic composition of claim ~~18~~ 13, wherein the microorganism which causes a sexually transmitted disease is HIV.

Claims 21-29 (Cancelled)

Claim 30: (Withdrawn) The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the heterologous antigen is a mammalian tumor antigen.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn) The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the first heterologous nucleotide sequence is in a eukaryotic expression system.